From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by the Auto Alliance: Quora Hack Exposes Data of Around 100 Million Users
Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 5:30:59 AM

By Edward Graham

Top Stories

- Online question-and-answer platform Quora Inc. said hackers may have gained access to the account information and private messages of approximately 100 million users, an announcement that comes less than a week after hotel chain Marriott International Inc. reported that hackers stole personal data from up to 500 million guests. Quora, which said its computer systems were compromised by "a malicious third party," noted that the pilfered information was unlikely to result in cases of identity theft since the site does not collect sensitive data like credit cards or Social Security numbers. (The New York Times)

- U.S. senators are making one last effort before the end of the year to pass legislation that would speed up the production and development of self-

driving vehicles. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) have been negotiating for more than a year to try and win approval for the AV START Act, and have circulated a draft of a revised bill seen by reporters that seeks to address safety concerns raised by several other senators. (The Verge)

- France and Germany are set to present a plan for a scaled-back digital tax on large technology companies that would tax the European advertising revenue of online companies at 3 percent and would likely exclude tech companies such as Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc., according to a draft seen by reporters. The Franco-German compromise abandons plans for a wider digital tax that would have targeted around 180 of the largest tech companies and captured data sales and the activities of online sites. (Financial Times)

Chart Review

Amazon Muscles In on Microsoft-Apple Fight for Top Market Value
Bloomberg

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

TUESDAY

Geeks Without Frontiers forum on connectivity with FCC Chairman Pai	7:30 a.m.
VMware Public Sector Innovation Summit	7:30 a.m.
Phoenix Center telecoms event	8:30 a.m.
North American Numbering Council meeting	9:30 a.m.

FCBA Consumer Protection Committee lunch with FTC officials on agency hearings	12:15 p.m.
New America lunch event with Tim Wu on his recent antitrust book	12:30 p.m.
Senate Small Business Tech Expo	1 p.m.
Center for Data Innovation report and panel on U.S. AI strategy	1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Axios event on the reality of artificial intelligence	8 a.m.
CDSA Content Protection Summit	9 a.m.
FCC Technological Advisory Council meeting	10 a.m.

THURSDAY

ICF CyberSci Symposium	8 a.m.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce space policy summit	8:30 a.m.
FTC hearing on non-controlling ownership interests	8:45 a.m.
Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee meeting	9 a.m.
PLI annual telecom policy and regulation conference	9 a.m.
Oral argument on DOJ appeal of U.S. District Court approval of AT&T acquisition of Time Warner	9:30 a.m.
Brookings Institution event on facial recognition, including Microsoft President Brad Smith	3:30 p.m.
FCBA FCC Chairman's Dinner	5:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee meeting	9 a.m.
PLI annual telecom policy and regulation conference	9 a.m.

Online speech summit at the Newseum	9 a.m.
Technology Policy Institute event on social media and elections	10 a.m.

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hand the innovations and emerging technologies changing mobility.
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General

Race Is On to Protect Data From Next Leap in Computers. And China Has the Lead.
Cade Metz and Raymond Zhong, The New York Times

The world's leading technology companies, from Google to Alibaba in China, are racing to build the first quantum computer, a machine that would be far more powerful than today's computers. This device could break the encryption that protects digital information, putting at risk everything from the billions of dollars spent on e-commerce to national secrets stored in government databases.

Alibaba Video Streaming Chief Steps Down Amid Probe
Shan Li, The Wall Street Journal

The president of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's video-streaming unit has stepped down amid an investigation by Chinese authorities into "alleged acceptance of improper payments," an Alibaba spokeswoman said Tuesday. Yang Weidong, 44 years old, had headed the Youkou Tudou streaming service.

China's Alibaba Takes On Amazon in European Cloud
Daphne Zhang, The Wall Street Journal

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. of China and Amazon.com Inc. are squaring off in Europe-and not just in e-commerce, but also in the quickly growing cloud-computing industry. The competition with Amazon, the world's biggest cloud-computing player, is a sign of how Europe is turning into a battleground between Chinese tech giants and Silicon Valley.

Where are the drones? Amazon's customers are still waiting
David Koenig and Joseph Pisani, The Associated Press

Jeff Bezos boldly predicted five years ago that drones would be carrying Amazon packages to people's doorsteps by now. Amazon customers are still

waiting.

Stocks Drop as Trade Hopes Fizzle; Treasuries Rise: Markets Wrap
Samuel Potter, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures dropped and European shares tracked declines in Asia as investors reined in their optimism over any breakthrough in the trade war. Treasuries gained and the dollar retreated.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

EU's Vestager Urged to Probe How Tech Giants Cash In on Ads
Aoife White, Bloomberg

European Union antitrust enforcers are being urged to scrutinize how ads fuel profits at tech giants such as Google and Facebook Inc. as watchdogs from France to Australia start to investigate how the market works. Brave Software Inc., which makes an ad-blocking browser, wrote to EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager warning how a handful of companies control how ads are placed with web publishers, a situation that might allow them to dictate prices and terms.

China again tops UN agency's ranking of top patent filers
The Associated Press

A U.N. agency says China has issued the most international patent applications for an eighth straight year, showing the country's heft in intellectual property amid U.S. President Donald Trump's accusation that the growing Asia power steals it. The World Intellectual Property Organization said Monday that innovators around the world filed a record 3.17 million patents last year, an annual increase of nearly 6 percent.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Spy Boss Says U.K. Must Decide If Huawei Suitable for 5G Network
Kitty Donaldson, Bloomberg

Alex Younger, head of the U.K.'s foreign intelligence agency MI6, said Theresa May's government must decide if Chinese-owned Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd

should be barred from running fifth generation telecom networks in Britain. The U.K. is coming under increasing pressure to restrict Huawei after New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. banned the company.

FCC Commissioner Says Agency's 'Hiding' What It Knows About Net Neutrality 'Fraud'
Karl Bode, Motherboard

As the FCC continues to thwart Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) attempts to shine more light on the bogus comments that plagued the agency's net neutrality repeal, one of the FCC's commissioners has accused her own agency of "thwarting" journalism and hiding the truth. The New York Times and other outlets recently sued the FCC, stating the agency is blocking efforts by journalists and consumer groups to discover who was behind the millions of bogus comments that plagued the FCC's net neutrality repeal late last year.

Microsoft increases rural broadband commitment, pledges to reach 3 million people by 2022
Anna Hensel, VentureBeat

A year ago, Microsoft announced its Rural Airband initiative, pledging to bring broadband to 2 million rural residents in the U.S. by 2022 through unused TV white spaces. Today, Microsoft President Brad Smith said in a phone interview with VentureBeat that the project is running ahead of schedule, and the company says it now expects to deliver broadband to 3 million people by 2022.

AT&T makes it more expensive to cancel DirecTV or Internet service
Jon Brodkin, Ars Technica

AT&T will start charging customers for the full month after they cancel TV or Internet service, ending its customer-friendly practice of providing a prorated credit for the final month. Even if you cancel on the first day of a new billing period, you'll be charged for the full month and service will continue for the rest of the month whether you want it or not.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Ex-Uber Security Employees Allege 'Deeply Troubling' Practices
Eric Newcomer, Bloomberg

Four former employees on Uber Technologies Inc.'s security team are claiming in court that the company is trying to block them from disclosing "a number of deeply troubling practices at Uber that have not been publicly revealed." The ex-employees didn't substantiate their claim in a filing Friday in state court in San Francisco.

Tumblr's nudity ban removes one of the last major refuges for pornography on social media
Eli Rosenberg, The Washington Post

Tumblr announced Monday that it will ban nearly all nudity from its platform, ending one of social media's last major refuges for explicit sexual images. Photos, videos and GIFs of genitalia and female nipples, as well as any visual depictions of sex acts, will no longer be allowed on the service as of Dec. 17, the company announced in a change to its terms of service.

Waymo's ambitious plans for high-speed taxis could be holding it back
Timothy B. Lee, Ars Technica

In November 2017, Waymo announced that it would start taking drivers out of the driver's seat of its prototype self-driving vehicles. A year later, Waymo still seems to be far away from completing that process.

Audi to invest 14 billion euros in e-mobility, self-driving cars
Douglas Busvine, Reuters

Volkswagen's premium auto brand Audi said on Tuesday it would invest 14 billion euros ($15.9 billion) through 2023 in electric mobility, digitalization and autonomous driving. Overall, the company's total projected expenditure for the next five years amounts to 40 billion euros, the company said in a statement.

Google Removed Two Popular Cheetah Mobile And Kika Tech Apps After An Investigation Sparked By BuzzFeed News
Craig Silverman, BuzzFeed News

Google removed two popular Cheetah Mobile and Kika Tech apps from its Play store today after finding "deceptive and malicious behavior" that was first outlined in a BuzzFeed News report. Google said an internal investigation found that CM File Manager and the Kika Keyboard contain code used to

execute ad fraud techniques known as click injection and/or click flooding.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Biggest prize in Marriott hack: Passport numbers
Christian Vasquez, Politico

The massive Marriott data breach exposed sensitive information on some 500 million people, but the most valuable loot may be hundreds of thousands of passport numbers revealed in the hack. Marriott said Friday morning that the breach, which appears to be the second largest behind the Yahoo hack that exposed information on three billion accounts in 2013, compromised a reservation database and that about 327 million of the records may have contained passport information.

Credit card stealing malware on Canada's 1-800-FLOWERS website went undetected for four years
Zack Whittaker, TechCrunch

It's going to take more than a bunch of posies to make up for this one. The Canadian branch of 1-800-FLOWERS revealed in a filing with the California attorney general's office that malware on its website had siphoned off customers' credit cards over a four-year period.

Oath Agrees to $5 Million Settlement Over Children's Privacy Online
Sapna Maheshwari, The New York Times

Oath, the owner of AOL and Yahoo, has agreed to pay about $5 million to settle charges from the New York attorney general that the media company's online advertising business was violating a federal children's privacy law. AOL, through its ad exchange, helped place targeted display ads on hundreds of websites that it knew were directed to children under 13, such as Roblox.com and Sweetyhigh.com, according to a settlement that the attorney general's office plans to announce on Tuesday.

Dem lawmaker: Marriott 'in the dark' about massive data breach
Alex Gangitano, The Hill

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), whose district is home to Marriott International,

says the company is still struggling to understand the massive data breach that may have affected 500 million customers. "Marriott seems to be still be in the dark about a lot of what happened," Raskin told The Hill on Monday.

U.S. Financial Firms to Further Increase Cybersecurity Spending
Yalman Onaran, Bloomberg

U.S. banks and other financial firms are projecting higher spending on cybersecurity as they face bigger threats and more attacks. In a survey of 100 senior security officers, 84 percent said their firms are planning to spend more this year on cybersecurity, up from 78 percent a year ago, data-security provider Thales eSecurity said in a report to be released Tuesday.

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Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

In the Race to 5G, Monopoly Considered Harmful
Charles Duan, Morning Consult

The battle royale between Apple and Qualcomm has an air of spectacle: Two technology giants fighting it out in multiple United States courts, through two federal agencies and across three continents. One may wonder if this is merely the sport of kings, with no real implications other than which company ultimately has to pay out to the other.

Technology will soon be able to tinker with who we are. Are we ready?
Elizabeth Bruenig, The Washington Post

Sometimes the future arrives in waves, advancing abruptly and then withdrawing. Last week, a Chinese researcher named He Jiankui announced

that he had successfully altered the genetic code of a pair of twin girls born this month.

More oversight of America's international media networks a good idea
Thomas Kent, The Hill

Congress is reviewing legislation that will help guarantee outside oversight of America's international media networks. The bill is valuable as it is, but could be even stronger.

Despite rise in mobile technology, most of Africa is not ready for AI
Aleksandra Gadzala, Axios

The success of mobile technologies across Africa is prompting speculation among tech investors about whether AI will likewise take off on the continent. But most African countries aren't yet ready to benefit from the technology, a new Atlantic Council report suggests.

Research Reports

2018 Broadband Scorecard Report
Joe Kane et al., R Street Institute

The applications and devices that utilize broadband access services are now integral parts of American life. The unprecedented connectivity we're experiencing would be impossible without underlying broadband infrastructure, including cables, antennas and support structures.

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